

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling an echo canceling system within a communication system,  
the method comprising the steps of:  
detecting an occurrence of at least one of a transition from non-linear echo path to  
linear echo path and a transition from linear echo path to non-linear echo path;  
halting a standard adaptation routine used to control at least one portion of the echo  
canceling system when occurrence of non-linear echo path is detected; and  
initiating a prescribed logic routine to control the echo canceling system in place of  
the standard adaptation routine during the occurrence of non-linear echo path.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting an occurrence of at least one of  
a transition from non-linear echo path to linear echo path and a transition from linear echo  
path to non-linear echo path comprises performing at least one of a plurality of tests.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein a test of the plurality of tests comprises one of the  
group of tests comprising: detecting a presence of non-linear echo; checking a sufficiency of  
echo cancellation; determining a present error energy relative to a previous error energy;  
determining a strength of a desired signal energy; checking for a presence of weak echo;  
checking for echo canceller divergence; checking for a presence of strong echo; determining  
an amount of synthesized echo relative to a desired signal energy; and determining a transient  
state wherein synthesized echo exceeds a desired energy level.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the test of detecting a presence of non-linear echo  
comprises testing at least one of: recent center clipping activity; error signal energy relative  
to a threshold and error signal energy relative to a desired signal energy.
5. The method of claim 3, wherein the test of checking a sufficiency of echo cancellation  
comprises testing at least one of error signal energy relative to a desired signal energy and a  
desired signal energy relative to a threshold.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the test of checking for checking for a presence of weak echo and for echo canceller divergence comprises at least one of determining a magnitude of a square of a peak adaptive filter coefficient relative to a threshold; determining an error energy relative to a desired signal energy; and determining whether a desired signal energy is greater than a reference signal energy by a predetermined amount.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein the test of checking for the presence of strong echo comprises determining a reference signal energy relative to a first threshold and determining a desired signal energy relative to a second threshold.

8. The method of claim 3, wherein the test of determining an amount of synthesized echo exceeds relative to a desired signal energy comprises determining whether an error energy relative to a desired signal energy.

9. The method of claim 3, wherein the test of determining a transient state wherein synthesized echo exceeds a desired energy level comprises at least one of: determining a transition either into or from the transient state; determining a transition either into or from a transient state by checking whether an error signal energy relative to a desired signal energy; and checking a center clipping counter value.

10. The method of claim 1, the prescribed logic routine comprises at least one step of the group of steps comprising: determining a divergence state of the echo canceller; determining a desired signal energy relative to a reference signal energy; checking an error signal energy relative to a predetermined threshold; determining a strength of an error signal; checking a center clipper counter value; determining a presence of linear echo; checking a linear echo counter; determining a desired energy level relative a threshold; determining a sufficiency of echo cancellation in the presence of linear echo; determining a quality of echo cancellation and determining an echo canceller state.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of checking a center clipper counter value comprises determining a center clipper counter is saturated.

- 5 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of determining a sufficiency of echo  
cancellation in the presence of linear echo comprises checking a desired signal energy  
relative to a threshold for a period of time.
13. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of determining the quality of echo  
10 cancellation comprises determining an error signal energy relative to a desired signal energy  
and determining the desired signal energy relative to a threshold.
14. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of determining a state of the echo canceller  
comprises at least one of the steps of: determining a desired signal energy level relative to a  
predetermined value, checking a value of a cancellation counter, checking whether a present  
error signal energy is greater than the desired signal energy level by a predetermined  
threshold and checking a state of a center clipping flag.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein the prescribed logic routine comprises at least one of  
the steps of: setting a center clipper state to ON, setting a previous error average energy equal  
to a present error average energy; incrementing a center clip counter value; setting a center  
clipper state to OFF; resetting a center clipping counter; setting a previous error average  
energy equal to a present error average energy; incrementing a center clip counter value;  
setting a transient counter value; decrementing a transient counter value; and saturating a  
25 center clipping counter.
16. An apparatus for echo canceling within a communication system wherein an echo  
generating system exists within the communication system introducing echo into a reference  
signal path, the apparatus comprising:
- 30 an echo canceller coupled to a desired signal path, the desired signal path including a  
desired signal and an echo signal generated by the echo generating system, the echo canceller  
including a first adaptation routine and a second adaptation routine an output signal for  
providing an output signal for canceling the echo signal from the desired signal path;
- wherein the echo canceller is operable to detect an occurrence of at least one of a  
35 transition from non-linear echo path to linear echo path and a transition from linear echo path  
to non-linear echo path; to halt operation of the first adaptation routine and to initiate

5 operation of the second adaptation routine when occurrence of non-linear echo path is  
detected.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the echo canceller comprises a plurality of tests,  
wherein the plurality of tests are selectively adapted to indicate a transition from linear echo  
10 path to non-linear echo path.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the plurality of tests comprise: detecting a  
presence of non-linear echo; checking a sufficiency of echo cancellation; determining a  
present error energy relative to a previous error energy; determining a strength of a desired  
signal energy; checking for a presence of weak echo; checking for echo canceller divergence;  
checking for a presence of strong echo; determining an amount of synthesized echo relative  
to a desired signal energy; and determining a transient state wherein synthesized echo  
exceeds a desired energy level.

19. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the echo canceller comprises a comfort noise  
generator to provide a comfort noise signal, and wherein the output signal comprises the  
comfort noise signal.

20. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the echo canceller comprises a synthetic echo  
generating system to provide a synthetic echo signal, and wherein output signal comprise the  
synthetic echo signal.